REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are presently active in this Application.

The outstanding Office Action includes a rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,996, Amano) in view of Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,258, Garcia) and a rejection of Claims 5, 10, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano in view of Garcia in further view of Nakajima (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,152).

Applicant acknowledges with gratitude the discussion held with Examiner Park and Supervisory Examiner Cole On May 26, 2004. During this discussion, Applicant's representative pointed out that the teachings of the primary reference being relied upon in each of the rejections, Amano, were directed to parameter analysis of the parameters of the converted print information from computer 3000 to determine the type of drawing object as explained at column 14 lines 30-37. Thus, there is no information added to the converted print data that is separate from the converted print data suggested as to this analysis.

Moreover, while FIG. 7 of Amano, and the discussion of steps s71 and S73 at column 15, lines 20-27 suggest that the results of such a print data analysis can be stored in memory for future use, neither this analysis of the printing parameters data, or the separate memory storage of the results of the analysis of the printing data, can be reasonably read on the claimed adding of information to the converted print data that is separate from that converted print data.

While the examiners noted that this interpretation of the teachings of <u>Amano</u> as to print data parameter analysis appeared to be true, they further noted that the limitations proposed to be added to the claims to highlight these differences from the teachings of <u>Amano</u> could not be entered after final rejection as new issues would be raised requiring a new search.   Accordingly, they suggested including such an Amendment as part of an RCE filed under 37 CFR §1.114 in order to secure Amendment entry and consideration of the above noted points.

As the present Amendment is being submitted as part of a 37 CFR §1.114 Request for Continued Examination (RCE), it is respectfully submitted that consideration of the above-noted limitations and the manner that they define over <u>Amano</u> is now appropriate.

Further in this regard, the outstanding rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is over <u>Amano</u> in view of <u>Garcia</u> is traversed because <u>Garcia</u> cures none of the deficiencies noted above as to <u>Amano</u>.

In this last regard, while <u>Garcia</u> may teach a printer 20, including print engine 50 coupled to the computer-printerdriver31, and a control block 40 partly distributed in the driver 31 and printer 20, the control of dither mask or print mask usage arises from program memory as noted at column 44, lines 12-18 and illustrated in FIG. 44, none of this subject matter (mentioned at the top of page 3 of the outstanding Action) is relevant to the above noted claim limitations. Thus, while independent Claims 1 and 16 do recite a "printer driver," it is in the context of its function of adding the drawing object identifying information that is separate from the converted drawing data of the print data to that print data.

Moreover, Column 25, line22-column 26, line23 of <u>Garcia</u> may teach mask generation and mask control, these masks are also not reasonably interpreted as

functioning to add drawing object identifying information that is separate from the converted drawing data of the print data to that print data as Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16-22 that are rejected over Amano in view of Garcia all require. Further, column 25, line 66 of Garcia only teach that the system can print area fill, not that the information provided for graphic data also indicates if that graphic data will be printed with or without area fill.

Furthermore, the obviousness rejections applied to the claims dependent on independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 19 are traversed because each of these dependent claims add further features to their respective independent parent claim that is not taught or suggested by Amano and/or Garcia considered alone or together in any proper combination.
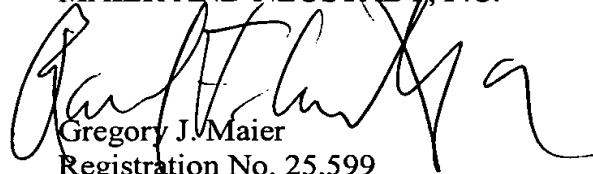
The outstanding Action relies on Nakajima as well as on Amano and Garcia to reject dependent Claims 5, 10, and 15. However, Nakajima cures none of the above-noted deficiencies of Amano and/or Garcia and this rejection of Claims 5, 10, and 15 is, thus, traversed for the reasons noted above.

Accordingly, as no outstanding issues remain to be resolved, it is respectfully

urged that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early

and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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